

were not in blossom (E.H.S.). (b) Wooroloo. July 13, 1952. At about 1000 hrs. a cock Golden Whistler, *Paehycephala pectoralis*, was observed dew bathing in the topmost boughs of a densely foliaged *Persoonia elliptica* in jarrah forest. The night had been cold and the morning was fine and clear. Much moisture remained on the leaves. About thirty inches from the whistler, in a similar situation in the same tree, a cock Spinebill, *Acanthorhynchus superciliosus*, was behaving, apparently, in much the same way. (E.H.S.).

(c) Crawley. July 16, 1952. A Red Wattle-bird was seen fluttering with wings spread and feathers ruffled in a number of parts of the thick foliage of a Moreton Bay fig (*Ficus macrophylla*), at the University. This continued for several minutes. The sun was shining, but the foliage was damp from rain which had fallen an hour before. Similar behaviour had been noted in a Red Wattle-bird at Wooroloo early in May, but in this case the tree used was a jarrah (*Euc. marginata*). (L.E.S.).

(d) Crawley. July 21, 1952. A Western Magpie, *Gymnorhina dorsalis*, was seen leaf bathing in a low dense mass of buffalo grass (*Stenotaphrum glabrum*), *Hardenbergia*, and other low creepers in King's Park. The method of bathing was as described in the foregoing note, but in this case went on indefinitely, i.e. for over five minutes the approximate total length of my observation. (L.E.S.).

—ERIC H. and LINDSAY E. SEDGWICK, Wooroloo.

Observations on Feeding of Dusky Wood-Swallows.—On February 22, 1954, Mr. K. G. Buller made a hurried trip to Bannister in order to collect specimens of the Dusky Wood-Swallow (*Artamus cyanopterus*) seen in the area a short while previously. He located approximately a dozen birds of which he collected two mature females, one immature female showing the characteristic plumage, and one mature male.

On the following day I did a routine check of the stomach contents, and found two particularly interesting features. The first was that all specimens of the Dusky Wood-Swallow contained numbers of Jumper Ants (*Promyrmecia swalei* Craw.) comprising all forms, winged males and females, and workers. The stomachs also contained other insects, but *Promyrmecia* predominated.

In specimen no. 2, a female *A. cyanopterus* was a small portion of a jewel beetle, possibly *Curis* sp., which is not represented in the Museum collection. Specimen no. 3 was an immature female. This bird was not hawking, but was shot resting in company with an adult female. Its stomach contained material similar to that of the adults, but in a much more mutilated condition, together with the remainder of the *Curis* individual seen in no. 2. I assume that this immature female was still being fed by the parents. Mr. Buller's observations support this.

About half a mile distant from where he collected these birds, Mr. Buller saw 5 Black-faced Wood-Swallows (*A. cinereus*), of

which he collected one. Its stomach contents were: 5 males or drones of the domestic bee, 1 clytron of *Paropsis*, 1 head of a Hylaeid bee, and mashed insect material. The area where the Dusky Wood-Swallow was collected was a wandoo flat, with a little marri, both species flowering, as well as some scrub. Apparently there was a marriage flight of the *Promyrmecia* at the time. The other Hymenoptera and Coleoptera were hawked by the Wood-Swallows in the vicinity of the flowering wandoo and marri. In the second case the Black-faced Wood-Swallow apparently hawked in a different area where drones of the domestic bee were plentiful.

—ATHOL M. DOUGLAS, W.A. Muscum.

Diving of Musk Duck, *Biziura lobata*.—On October 4, 1953, a Gould League party visited the Victoria Reservoir, near Maddington. As usual, waterfowl were scarce and only one duck, a male Musk Duck, was seen. This was diving in deep water, so a group undertook to time a number of successive dives.

Times recorded were as follows:

Dive	Duration in seconds.	Time on surface in seconds.
1	60	Not recorded
2	65
3	62
4	58	20
5	45	Not recorded
6	50	18
7	55	20
8	60	Not recorded
9	57	18
10	62	17
11	60	Not recorded
12	57	18
13	62	20
14	50	27
15	55	20
16	57	16
17	50	17
18	42	24
19	55	Observations concluded.

It will be observed that the duration of the dives was remarkably consistent, ranging from 42 seconds to 65 seconds and averaging 55.9 seconds. Surface times were much shorter ranging from 16 seconds to 24 seconds and averaging 19.6 seconds.

Mr. D. Reid, who has seen the Reservoir empty, estimated the depth of water at the point where the bird was diving — about 100 yards behind the centre of the retaining wall — to be about 40 feet.

The bird was watched by Mr. D. Reid through binoculars while Mr. E. Garrett, using a watch with sweep second hand, recorded the duration of the dives and the writer recorded the observations and, where possible, obtained surface times.

The times given above are much greater than those recorded in Serventy and Whittell's *Birds of Western Australia* — of a